

The regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jack Steiner at 7:00pm. Those present included George Lagassa, Lloyd Sullivan (Selectmen), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

a. Statement by the Board of Selectmen

Mr. Lagassa read, "At our last meeting on March 27th, 2000, a resident of North Hampton, Mr. Peter Simmons, alleged that Selectmen Jack Steiner had violated his oath of office and acted illegally relative to an issue before the Planning Board. Mr. Simmons made no specific claim as to what Mr. Steiner had done, but insisted that the Board take some action, though no specific action was requested. A great deal of time was spent at that meeting listening to Mr. Simmons' allegations, and a considerable degree of latitude was afforded Mr. Simmons to make his charges. At that time, we indicated that we needed some time to consider Mr. Simmons' charges. We have had two weeks to do so, I believe, Mr. Sullivan, and I have both undertaken due diligence to clarify the facts and applicable law. Included in all this was a meeting with town counsel, Attorney John Ryan. Upon the advice of counsel, we have concluded that there is no appropriate action to be taken at this time by the Board of Selectmen."

Mr. Simmons was granted three minutes for comment. Mr. Simmons referenced the code of ethics and disagreed with Attorney John Ryan's view. Mr. Simmons noted that his intent was not to go after (sue) the Town, but Mr. Steiner. Mr. Simmons referenced Mr. Steiner's letter of apology and found that it addressed many subjects and finally ended with an apology. Mr. Simmons found it wanting and again suggested that Mr. Steiner resign.

The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes of March 27th. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to accept the minutes of March 27th. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- a.** Administration/Business
- b.** Minutes - March 27th, 2000
- c.** Payroll
- d.** Manifest
- e.** Application for Nursing Home - Elizabeth Jewel
- f.** Burial Lots - Signatures
- g.** Bond Reduction Request - Abenaqui Meadows 650k down to 200k

Mr. Lagassa made the motion to lower the amount of the Bond as recommended by the Planning Board. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

- h.** Land Use Change - Peter Simmons (previous invoice had wrong date on it)
- i.** Veterans Exemption - Joseph Merrill
- j.** Teamsters Local 633 - Notice of intent to negotiate
- k.** Rockingham County Nursing Home - Admissions pending
- l.** Media One - Social Contract
- m.** Coalition Communities - Court Order
- n.** HWW - Susan MacDonald
- o.** Water Commissioners Meeting - April 13th, 7:00pm Town Hall

Capital Improvement Plan (moved to first item from second agenda item)

Bill Carlson - questions & discussion

Mr. Carlson noted that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) needed legislative authority prior to the Planning Board moving ahead. Mr. Carlson was unclear as to who comprised the legislative body. It was explained that the voters were the legislative body and that the Board of Selectmen was the governing body. Mr. Steiner noted that legislative approval relative to the formation of a CIP was granted at a previous Town meeting. Mr. Carlson asked where he could find the warrant article. The TA said that he would provide a copy of the warrant article for Mr. Carlson.

Recreation Commission (moved to second item from first agenda item)

Review of Position Description & Advertisement for Rec. Director

Bert Garry reviewed the position description with the Board. There was some discussion regarding whether or not to include the salary in the position advertisement. Mr. Wilson suggested that classification of the position as "entry level" was appropriate and would alleviate the need to include the salary range within the ad. Mr. Garry agreed to rework the ad.

Friends of Centennial Hall

Questions about parking lot and island abutting the property

Beverly Frenette addressed the Board concerning the two small lots adjacent to Centennial Hall that were owned by the Town. The Friends of Centennial Hall were looking to maintain and utilize the two properties. Ms. Frenette asked if the Town was interested in donating, transferring or leasing those parcels to the Friends of Centennial Hall? The Board thought the lease agreement was a good idea and directed Ms. Frenette to draft some language for their review.

Selectmen's Issues

SBAC President John Dowd

Mr. Dowd addressed the Board by providing a brief synopsis of the SBAC. Mr. Dowd explained that a group of interested seacoast business leaders had established a not for profit group in early 1997. The group adopted bylaws and filed the necessary papers with the Secretary of State. The group subsequently visited with various Town Boards of Selectmen. They approached the North Hampton Board for permission to submit an economic development grant (CDBG program) with the Office of State Planning through the Town of North Hampton and the BoS agreed. The TA submitted the grant and it was approved. The SBAC mission entailed three things; job creation on the seacoast, development of Hampton Beach, redevelopment of the Route 1 corridor. The grant itself was for \$290k over a three-year period, \$110, \$100k, \$75k. The grant was used to fund the costs of running the SBAC office activities for a three-year period. Mr. Dowd reviewed the flow of grant funds explaining that federal money went to OSP whom in turn sent money to the Town who in turn released money to the SBAC. Mr. Dowd noted that under the CDBG program the only entity allowed to receive funding is a municipality. Mr. Sullivan expressed concern that the Board had no say over where or to whom the money goes to and that the Town needed representation. Mr. Dowd agreed that the Town needed representation and that they had it. That person was the Town Administrator. Mr. Dowd emphasized that whether it was the TA or a member from the Board, representation was important. Mr. Steiner supported the TA being on the SBAC Board and representing the North Hampton Board of Selectmen. Mr. Lagassa concurred, explaining to Mr. Sullivan that the TA's position was subordinate to the Board of Selectmen (BoS), therefore, the TA represented the BoS's interests. Mr. Parker asked whether there was supporting administrative costs associated with the grant. The TA explained that CDBG funded programs did include as part of their grants specific provisions to cover administrative costs. The Town contracted with Donna Lane (CDBG consultant) whose job was to provide the oversight and administrative responsibilities associated with the grant and that a portion of the grant paid her fees. Shirley Fuller asked if the SBAC were doing anything to bring more businesses to the North Hampton Factory Outlet Mall. Mr. Dowd replied that the SBAC was, but that financial discussions with any client were

strictly confidential. Mr. Sullivan objected. Mr. Wilson indicated that if discussions were being held with a publicly traded company there were policies in place that prohibited the disclosure of such conversation. Should those discussions become public the company would be compelled to discontinue further discussion. Mr. Dowd noted that it was the SBAC's intention to have a close relationship with the Town and that the SBAC was looking to be successful in its mission.

Status of Back-up Systems Administrator

Mr. Steiner noted that the office had become more complex technologically, so they were looking to have an outside consultant come in and review system policies. Mr. Steiner had contacted PCG out of Portsmouth and had directed them to contact the TA.

Office Space Needs / Develop Space above Police Station

Mr. Steiner explained that the town office was out of space and that the space crunch was likely to get worse with the addition of a recreation director. Mr. Sullivan noted that something should be done soon to get the ball rolling. Mr. Lagassa provided a brief synopsis of events to date. He noted that events had overtaken the issue and moved it aside. He commented on the uncertainty surrounding the statewide property tax as one reason why the space had not been previously developed, but that it was probably time to do so. The TA noted that he had recently talked with the architect Rich Correll who originally designed the building about the space problem. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to have the TA get the ball moving by meeting with Mr. Correll to see where it would lead. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Bid notification

Mr. Sullivan noted that he had not received any notification relating to the recent paving bids that went into the paper. Robert Strout, Road Agent, apologized for not bringing it to the Board's attention during the last meeting. He noted that the last meeting was a very long one and that people's tempers were not what they should be so he had forgotten. Mr. Strout noted that as a rule all bids go to the Board first.

Appoint Selectmen's Rep to SAU Withdrawal Study Committee

Mr. Lagassa noted that under present statute composition of the study committee was largely proscribed and that a member from the BoS was needed on the Study Committee. Mr. Sullivan volunteered Mr. Steiner. Mr. Lagassa seconded Mr. Sullivan's volunteering motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Recreation Commission Appointments

Mr. Steiner added the above agenda item noting that he had two candidates for the vacancies, Sarah O'Brien and Guilbert Sullivan. Grant Seaverns asked if the vacancies were offered in the paper. Mr. Sullivan noted that they had better get them while they could. Mr. Steiner made the motion to approve the two nominations both for a three-year period. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Questions & Comments

Lucille Ellingwood noted that the way Waste Management collected trash resulted in a lot of it blowing out of the dumpsters all over her yard. She thought it a deplorable state of affairs.

Selectmen's Minutes
10 April 2000
7:00pm

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00pm. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to convene in non-public session under RSA91-A:3 II (a) to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator